



FACT SHEET

GRID RESILIENCE AND INNOVATION PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM

Established by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the U.S. Department of Energy's Grid Deployment Office is administering a historic \$10.5 billion investment via the Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships (GRIP) program to enhance grid flexibility, improve the resilience of the power system against growing threats of extreme weather and climate change, and ensure American communities have access to affordable, reliable, clean electricity when and where they need it.

INCREASING FLORIDA'S GRID RESILIENCY IN THE FACE OF EXTREME WEATHER AND NATURAL DISASTERS

As part of Fort Pierce Utilities Authority (FPUA) storm hardening efforts to improve grid reliability and resilience, FPUA and Florida Municipal Power Agency (FMPA) have determined that upgrading two critical substation transformers would increase capacity, reduce the likelihood of outages during peak demand and storm surges, and provide more reliability and resilience while accommodating future growth needs. Similarly, FPUA will replace four obsolete distribution transformers for additional grid improvement. This project will also upgrade a substation to a ring bus configuration rather than manual switch configuration, which will allow FPUA to provide continued service without risk of extended outages. FPUA will also install 400 TripSaver devices, enabling FPUA's electric grid to be more resilient to vegetation, wildlife, and other transient disruptors. These projects will ultimately harden the transmission system, enhance monitoring and control technologies, provide new adaptive protection technologies, and complete upgrades to substations, ultimately empowering FPUA to maintain reliable electric service while reducing impacts on the grid caused by unexpected outages, extreme weather, and natural disasters.

Anticipated Outcomes and Benefits

- › Increased grid reliability in the face of more severe storms and climate change.
- › Increased grid reliability to reduce outages caused by transient disruptors, such as animals or small tree limbs.
- › Reduced or eliminated need to increase rates for customers for this particular investment thanks to federal funds.
- › Focused benefits for to **disadvantaged communities** (DACs) across Fort Pierce, FL, where over 27% of the population lives in poverty compared to 13% statewide.
- › FPUA is community-owned, and revenue is reinvested back into the city's general fund to improve the quality of life for customers.
- › Collaboration with local governments and agencies, such as the Fort Pierce Redevelopment Agency, St. Lucie Economic Development Council, and Indian River State College, a federally recognized minority serving institution. These partnerships will support identifying opportunities to better serve the local community, provide reliable service, and make grid infrastructure more resilient.
- › Commitment to workforce development and career advancement opportunities for FPUA employees.

PROJECT DETAILS

- › **Project:**
Mitigating Impacts of Extreme Weather and Natural Disasters Through Increased Grid Resiliency
- › **Applicant/Selectee:**
Fort Pierce Utilities Authority
- › **GRIP Program:**
Grid Resilience Utility and Industry Grants (Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Section 40101(c))
- › **Federal cost share:**
\$5,828,993
- › **Recipient cost share:**
\$2,907,882
- › **Project Location:**
Florida
- › **Project type:**
System Hardening

HELPFUL LINKS

- › **Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnerships Program**
- › **About the Grid Deployment Office**